

T O R R A N C E

Press Release

Police Department

Vehicle Pursuit / Officer Involved Shooting DR 090009496



On February 10, 2009, at approximately 7:20 pm, Torrance Gang Investigators were patrolling the area of 173rd Street and Eastwood Avenue, in the City of Torrance. A subject known to the investigators as Arturo Martin Samperio was observed in a vehicle. This subject is a wanted Parole-at-Large and a traffic stop was initiated.

The vehicle and the subject fled from the investigators and a vehicle pursuit ensued. The vehicle evaded police and failed to yield to pursuing officers and drove at a high rate of speed toward Hawthorne Boulevard. The vehicle then drove south, in the north bound lanes of traffic of Hawthorne in a further attempt to evade officers. A Torrance Motorcycle officer was positioned at the intersection of 182nd Street and Hawthorne monitoring the pursuit. The driver of the vehicle drove directly at the motor officer, east in the west bound lanes of 182nd, causing the officer to jump from his motorcycle to avoid being run over. An officer-involved shooting then took place.

The suspect continued east on 182nd Street and Torrance Officers remained in pursuit of the vehicle and occupants. The suspect lost control of the vehicle and crashed in the 16400 block of Van Ness Avenue. The suspects fled from the traffic collision into an adjoining residential neighborhood. Torrance Officers pursued the suspects, on foot, and a second officer-involved shooting took place.

A large containment area was established and several agencies responded to assist in an area search. At approximately 1:30 am, Arturo Samperio was located hiding in the rear yard of a residence in the 16200 block of Van Ness. During this dangerous five hour search, the suspect had broken into a residence during his attempt to evade detection and arrest.

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The second suspect was not located within the search area. Samperio was transported to a local hospital for treatment of minor injuries resulting from apprehension by a K-9 team.

Arrestee: Arturo Martin Samperio
Age 28, from Redondo Beach, CA

Charges: Assault with a Deadly Weapon
on a Police Officer, Evading, Burglary, Hit and Run, and a Parole Violation.

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office is reviewing this incident as is routine for all officer involved shootings. The investigation is on-going under the direction of Captain David Smith, Commander of the Special Operations Bureau. Investigators are interested in talking to anyone who may have information regarding this case. People with information should contact Torrance Police Department Detectives at (310) 618-5570.

Sergeant Bernard Anderson
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Public Information Officer
310 618-5688

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